Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, In South Dakota, 77.5 percent of women, with children under age 6, are in the workforce; and,

Whereas, This ever-increasing number of working women results in 52 percent, or approximately 28,500 children, under age 6, attending some type of paid child care, which is higher than the national average and more than any other state; and,

Whereas, The state depends on 925 registered family day care homes, 92 licensed group family day care homes, 133 licensed day care centers, and 141 before- and after- school care centers offering care for up to 34,133 children; and,

Whereas, Without the availability of these dedicated child care providers, many employees would not be able to report to work each day; and,

Whereas, Early childhood is the most critical developmental period for all children, making quality child care especially important; and,

Whereas, Dedicated child care providers who commit themselves to children and families, make quality child care services available to South Dakota families; and,

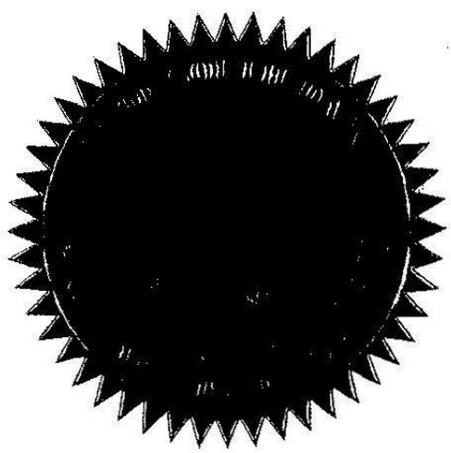
Whereas, Our future depends on the quality of the early childhood experiences provided to young children today; and,

Whereas, High quality child care services represent a worthy commitment to our children's future:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 9, 2003, as

PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-third Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State